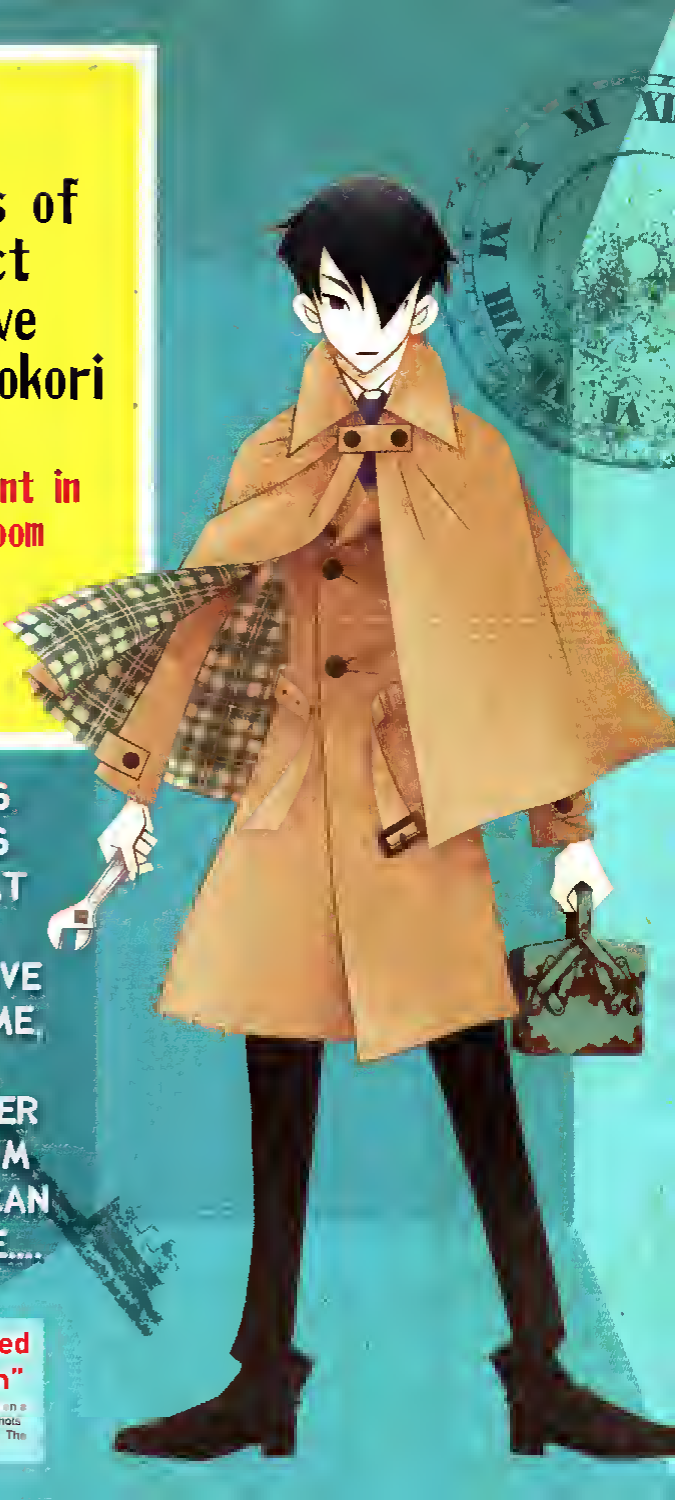
Kouji Kumeta

The Cases of Contract Detective Kasuhiro Nokori

Foreign Student in a Locked Room



THIS MAN HAS SOLVED CASES EVEN THE GREAT WESTERN DETECTIVES GAVE UP ON. THIS TIME, HE FACES A STRANGE MURDER IN A ROOM FROM WHICH NO ONE CAN ENTER OR LEAVE....

Mephisto and *Magazine* Single-theme collaboration series

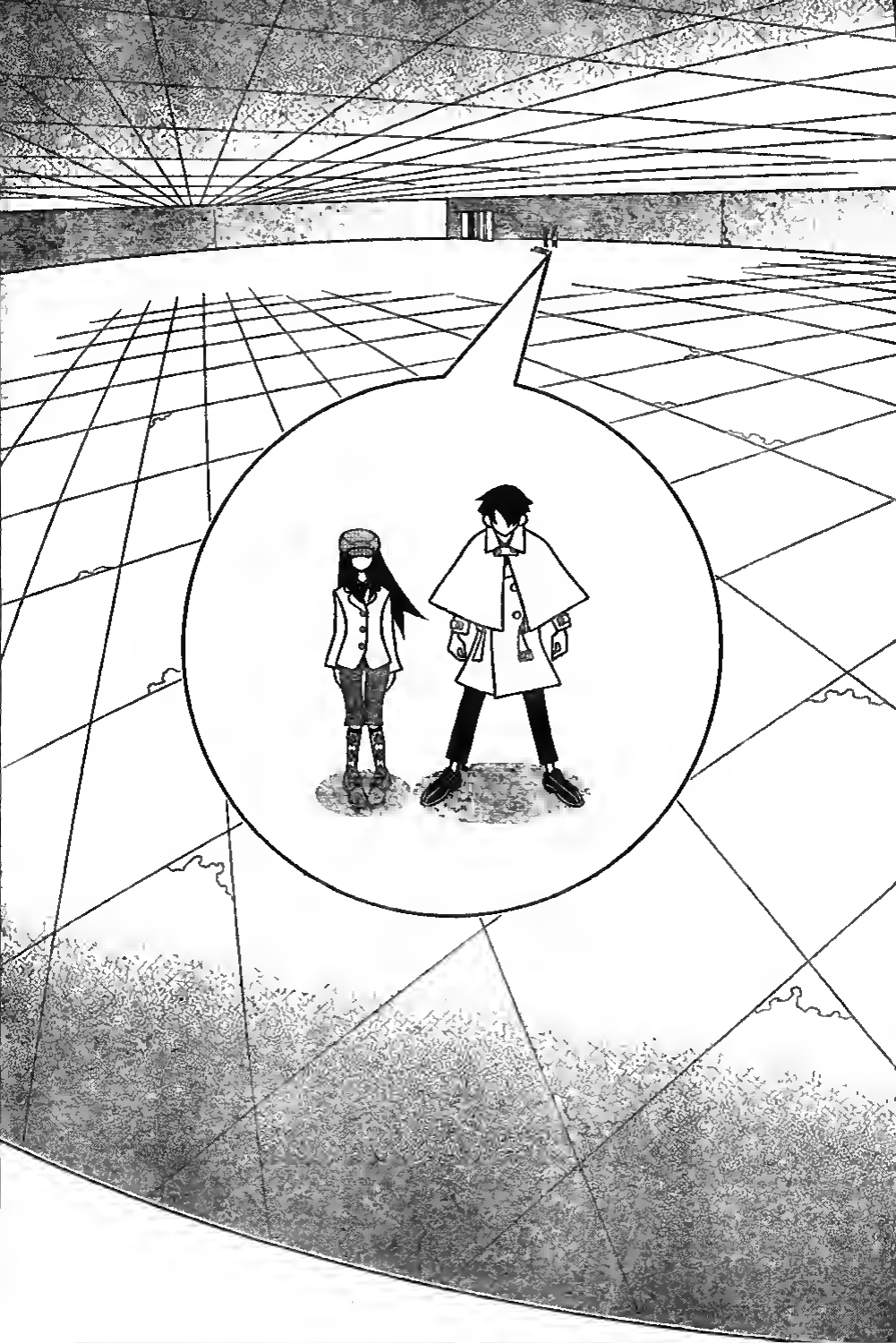
"Locked Room"

The art magazines "Mephisto" and "Magazine" take on a challenge and will have brilliant authors draw one-shots about "locked rooms" for them on an irregular basis. The first story is written by Kumeta Kouji!

I'm a detective.
A PECULIAR WAY OF SITTING DOWN, FITTING FOR A PERSON IN A PECULIAR LINE OF WORK.
Office of Nokori Kasuhiro
My name is Nokori Kasuhiro.
Well, they call me a detective, but I'm a little different.
I specialize in...
cases that even the well-known detectives ...
have given up on.
CAUTION

My assistant, Jigo Shiyori.
とうとう
ジリリ
NOKORI DETECTIVE AGENCY, HOW CAN I HELP YOU?
YES?
SENSEI

IMPOSSIBLE!
EVEN SHERDOCK HAS GIVEN UP!
KINDAICHI -KUN HAS GIVEN UP!
IMPOSSIBLE!
CONAN -KUN HAS GIVEN UP!
IMPOSSIBLE!
SHIYORI-KUN, WHAT KIND OF CASE IS IT THIS TIME?
A LOCKED-ROOM MURDER!
ギィイイイ



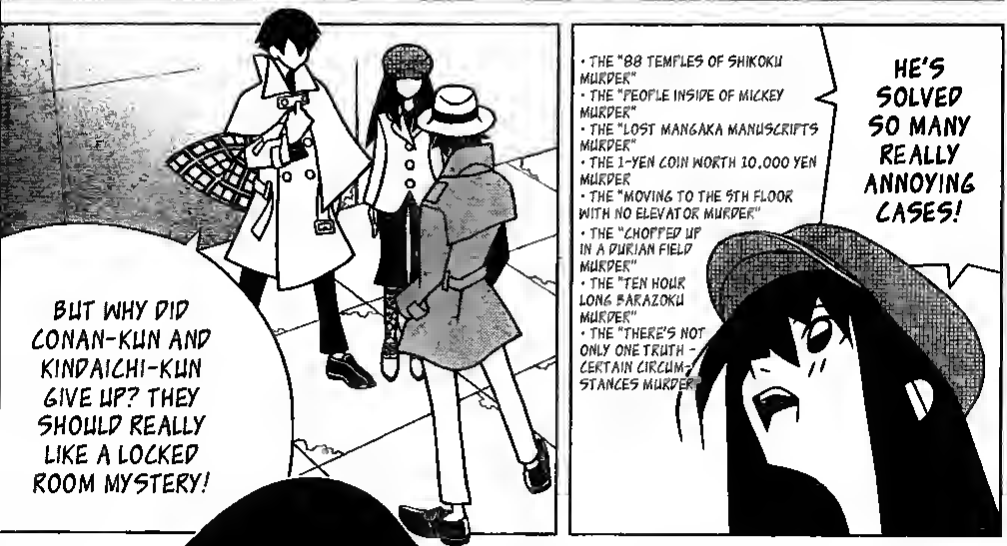
IT'S A LOCKED ROOM MURDER.
UHH...
A MURDER THAT OCCURS IN ANY ROOM THAT'S SEALED TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD IS A LOCKED ROOM MURDER.
THE SIZE IS IRRELEVANT.
HOW DO YOU DEFINE A "LOCKED ROOM"?
EACH WALL IS FIVE KILOMETERS FROM END TO END!
5 KM
5 KM
Locked Room
THIS ROOM JUST SO HAPPENS TO BE HUGE!
YES.
BUT EVEN SO, ISN'T THIS A LITTLE BIG?
I GET IT.
I...
ヒョオオオオ

THIS CASE HAS ALREADY BEEN SOLVED!
I'M GETTING THAT FEELING.
SEEMS YOU'RE A BIT LATE, SUBCONTRACTOR.
THIS CASE HAS ALREADY BEEN SOLVED.
TH... THIS PERSON!
THIS IS A SUICIDE.
SUICIDE OFFICER MIZUKARA SHINTAROU!
HE RULES EVERYTHING A SUICIDE!
THE CHANCES HE COMMITTED SUICIDE ARE MUCH HIGHER...
COMPARED TO SOMETHING LIKE MURDER...
IF THE VICTIM FELT LIKE DYING!
AIN'T CALLING IT A SUICIDE GOOD ENOUGH?
NOW THAT SENSEI IS HERE IT ISN'T!

ALL THOSE CASES THAT AREN'T PARTICULARLY HARD TO SOLVE...
HAVE GIVEN UP ON.
A
B
C
KEEP OUT
ALREADY SOLVED SO MANY CASES THAT FAMOUS DETECTIVES
SENSEI HAS
DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE "SIMPLY ANNOYING."
...BUT ARE SIMPLY ANNOYING, WHICH IS WHY THEY'VE GIVEN UP.
THE "YUI RAIL MURDER"
THE CASE INSPECTOR TOTSUKAWA HAD GIVEN UP ON BECAUSE IT WAS TOO SHORT A RIDE, NOT EVEN A REAL RAILWAY AND WITHOUT ANY SUSPENSE...
HE SOLVED IT BY TAKING A HUNDRED ROUND TRIPS.
BY FOLLOWING A DE NIRO-LIKE APPROACH AND LOSING 20KG OF WEIGHT
HE SOLVED THE "APERTURE INCIDENT" THAT HAPPENED VIA AN OPENING SO SMALL NOBODY COULD GET THROUGH
THE "ELDERLY GENTLEMAN MURDER"
AND THEN, HIS GREATEST CASE, THE ONE THAT HAPPENED IN A VILLAGE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY...
IT'S SAID SENSEI WAS FEELING ITCHY FOR TWO MONTHS AFTER HE'D SOLVED IT.
THE "GRATED YAM MURDER" EVERYBODY REFUSED TO INVESTIGATE FURTHER..

A REALLY TOUGH CASE, SINCE THE ALL WITNESSES WERE FORGETFUL OLD PEOPLE.
YEAH... THEIR TESTIMONIES WOULD CHANGE EVERY DAY, IT WAS REALLY DIFFICULT.

AND IT GOT EVEN WORSE...
ONE BY ONE, THE WITNESSES DIED...
IT WAS VERY HOT THAT SUMMER.


HE'S SOLVED SO MANY REALLY ANNOYING CASES!
• THE "88 TEMPLES OF SHIKOKU MURDER"
• THE "PEOPLE INSIDE OF MICKEY MURDER"
• THE "LOST MANGAKA MANUSCRIPTS MURDER"
• THE 1-YEN COIN WORTH 10,000 YEN MURDER
• THE "MOVING TO THE 9TH FLOOR WITH NO ELEVATOR MURDER"
• THE "CHOPPED UP IN A DURIAN FIELD MURDER"
• THE "TEN HOUR LONG BARAZOKU MURDER"
• THE "THERE'S NOT ONLY ONE TRUTH - CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES MURDER"
BUT WHY DID CONAN-KUN AND KINDAICHI-KUN GIVE UP? THEY SHOULD REALLY LIKE A LOCKED ROOM MYSTERY!

THERE'S ONLY ONE ENTRANCE
AND ALL FOUR WALLS ARE COVERED WITH THICK CONCRETE.
I THINK...

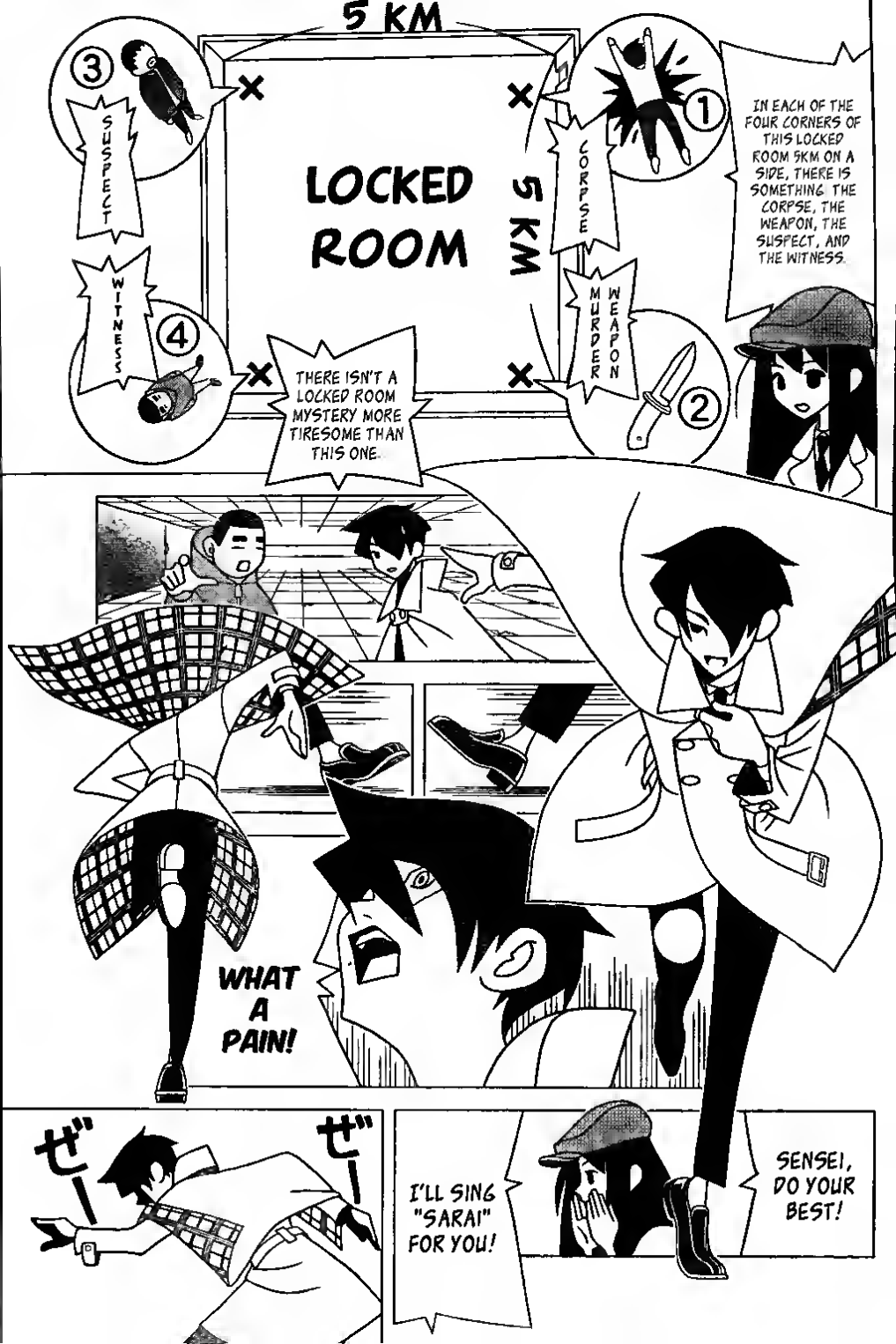
OF COURSE, IT'S SO HUGE AND EVERY-THING.
THE CULPRIT IS IN THIS ROOM!
IS IT REALLY OK TO SAY THAT?
NOBODY MOVE!
IT APPEARS HE WAS STABBED ONCE IN THE BACK WITH A SHARP KNIFE
WELL THEN, LET'S SEE... THE VICTIM WAS A FOR-EIGN STUDENT FROM THE COMMUNIST UNIVERSITY
WHERE IS IT?
WHAT !?
WE'VE FOUND THE MURDER WEAPON.

HERE!
はー
はー
はっ
はっ
ぜー
ぜー
ぜー
THIS IS IT.
THERE ARE INITIALS ENGRAVED ON THE KNIFE'S GRIP.
「R・S」
ONE OF THE SUSPECTS HAS THOSE INITIALS.
WHERE IS THAT SUSPECT?

OVER THERE.
ハ
ハ
ハ

CORPSE
WELCOME BACK, SENSEI.
ぬあ
あぁ
HUH?
LET'S SEE IF IT MATCHES HIS CLOTHES.
ONE OF THE SUSPECTS IS MISSING A BUTTON FROM HIS JACKET.
LET'S SEE IF IT MATCHES!
ぜ
ぜ
SHIYORI-KUN, WASN'T THERE SOMETHING NEXT TO THE CORPSE?
YOU MEAN THIS?

LET'S SEE...
ぬおおおお
SEE, DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
OH? IT DOESN'T FIT.
AND THAT PERSON IS...?
THERE'S SOMEBODY WHO CAN VOUCH FOR IT.
AND I'VE GOT AN ALIBI AS WELL.
WITNESS
OVER THERE!
TO REALIZE
I'M START-ING
ぬ
あ
あ
IS THAT SO?
TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH, SENSEI.
WHY THEY'VE GIVEN UP ON THIS CASE.


5 KM
LOCKED ROOM
5 KM
1
CORPSE
IN EACH OF THE FOUR CORNERS OF THIS LOCKED ROOM 5KM ON A SIDE, THERE IS SOMETHING. THE CORPSE, THE WEAPON, THE SUSPECT, AND THE WITNESS.
2
MURDER WEAPON
3
SUSPECT
4
WITNESS
THERE ISN'T A LOCKED ROOM MYSTERY MORE TIRESOME THAN THIS ONE.
WHAT A PAIN!
ぜー
ぜー
I'LL SING "SARAI" FOR YOU!
SENSEI, DO YOUR BEST!

DO YOUR BEST!
HAVE SOME WATER!
WATER STATION
HA
HA
HA
AH
KEEP GOING!
GO FOR IT!
FOR SOME REASON, I'M A BIT MOVED.
THE LOCKED ROOM.
THE LOCKED ROOM IS TURNING INTO A MELTING POT OF EMOTIONS.
YAY
AH
HA
UH
HA
ARE ALL BECOMING IRRELE-VANT TO SOLVING THE CASE ALREADY!
AND VICTIM
AS WELL AS THE WITNESS
AND THE SUS-PECT
THE IN-VESTI-GATOR

A MIRACLE OCCURRED.
JUST WHEN EVERYBODY HAD ALMOST STOPPED CARING ABOUT DEDUCTION...
ぴキ
ぺ
I CAN SEE IT!
I CAN SEE IT BEYOND THE LIGHT!
THE TRUTH!
SENSEI SEEMS KIND OF WEIRD.
TH... THIS IS...
SO HIS PERCEPTION BECAME EXTRAORDINARILY ACUTE.
AT THIS POINT, OUR DETECTIVE HAD RUN TOO MUCH AND WAS EXPERIENCING A RUNNER'S HIGH
A RUNNER'S HIGH!
I'VE GOT IT.
THERE'S SOMEONE PULLING THE STRINGS FROM BEHIND THE SCENES ON THIS CASE...
ぴた

AND THAT IS
YOU, SHIYORI-KUN!
YOU TOOK THE CALL THAT SAID CONAN-KUN AND KINDAICHI-KUN HAD GIVEN UP ON THE CASE.
WHA WHAT?
SINCE OUR TELEPHONE WAS DISCONNECTED LAST MONTH!
WHICH IS VERY STRANGE
SO THAT MEANS YOU'VE LED ME HERE, SHIYORI-KUN.
WHY DIDN'T YOU NOTICE THAT SOONER ...?
I DID IT TO HELP YOU.
AS EXPECTED OF SENSEI... I COULDN'T FOOL YOU, COULD I?
WHY?

TO HELP...
ME?
DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS ODD?
A LOCKED ROOM THIS BIG...
WHO BUILT THIS AND WHY?
THE THICK CONCRETE WALLS.
A TIGHTLY LOCKED PLACE
WITH ONLY ONE ENTRANCE.
PLENTY OF MINERAL WATER.
AND LOTS OF FREE SPACE, ENOUGH TO ACCOMMODATE
HUNDREDS, NO, THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE
THE VICTIM WAS A FOREIGN STUDENT..
BUT IN NAME ONLY. HE WAS ACTUALLY A SPY FROM A CERTAIN COUNTRY
HE HAD RECEIVED SOME INFORMATION AND TRIED TO SAVE HIMSELF BY FLEEING HERE
THE QUESTION OF WHO KILLED HIM DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE
BECAUSE OF WHAT HE DID.
AND HERE
A FLAG SYMBOLIZING NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION
NO
IT CAN'T BE...
SENSEI, 30 MINUTES AFTER YOU ENTERED THIS ROOM
ALL OF JAPAN WAS BOMBED
WHICH MEANS THAT THIS TIME OUR CASE
ISN'T A LOCKED ROOM MURDER.

EVERYBODY OUTSIDE OF THE LOCKED ROOM HAS BEEN KILLED.
BUT A MURDER OUTSIDE THE LOCKED ROOM.
KINDAICHI-KUN IS DEAD.
CONAN-KUN IS DEAD.
YOU'RE THE FIRST CHOICE.
SENSEI, YOU'RE NOT A SUBCONTRACTOR ANYMORE.
BUT ISN'T THIS ALREADY THE FINAL CHAPTER?
I WAS THINKING ABOUT TURNING THIS INTO A SERIES IF EVERYTHING HAD GONE WELL.
BECAUSE YOU'RE THE ONE AND ONLY DETECTIVE LEFT.

KUMETA KOUJI-SENSEI'S NEW SERIES IS SUPPOSED TO START WHEN IT'S GOTTEN WARMER... THAT'S OUR GOAL AT LEAST!!

"Shitauke Tantei Nokori Kasuhiro Series" - The End?

BONUS PAGE

PAGE 2: NOKORI KASUHIRO

- HIS NAME KANJI CAN BE READ LIKE "THE DREGS LEFT"

PAGE 7: "THIS CASE HAS ALREADY BEEN SOLVED"

- THE WORD SHE USED IN JAPANESE WAS DEOCHI 出オチ WHICH MEANS THAT THE PUNCHLINE PRETTY MUCH APPEARS RIGHT IN THE BEGINNING OF THE STORY. IN COMEDY, IT MEANS FOR EXAMPLE THAT THE COMEDIANS APPEAR ON STAGE IN WEIRD CLOTHES WHICH MAKES THE AUDIENCE LAUGH ALREADY.

- "MIZUKARA SHINTAROU": HIS NAME KANJI CAN READ AS SOMETHING LIKE "PROBABLY DIED BY THEMSELVES"

PAGE 8: ROBTATO DE NIRO

- KUMETA-SENSEI APPARENTLY IS A FAN OF ROBERT DE NIRO, KNOWN (EARLIER IN HIS CAREER AT LEAST) FOR FOLLOWING THE "METHOD" SCHOOL OF ACTING.

- "INSPECTOR TOTSUKAWA": INSPECTOR TOTSUKAWA IS THE MAIN CHARACTER IN A SERIES OF DETECTIVE NOVELS THAT HAS ALSO BEEN TURNED INTO A TV SERIES AND A MANGA.

- "YUI RAIL": YUI RAIL IS THE NAME OF THE ONLY (WORKING) PUBLIC RAIL LINE IN ALL OF OKINAWA. IT'S A MONORAIL WITH 15 STATIONS THROUGHOUT NAHA. THE WHOLE LINE IS ONLY 12.8KM LONG.

PAGE 9: DESPAIR... ER, MURDER LIST

- *"THE 88 TEMPLES OF SHIKOKU MURDER"*: THE 88 TEMPLES OF SHIKOKU ARE THE TEMPLES THAT ARE PART OF THE FAMOUS SHIKOKU PILGRIMAGE. THE WALKING COURSE FOR THE PILGRIMAGE TAKES 1200KM AND 1-2 MONTHS FOR COMPLETION.

- *"THE "LOST MANGAKA MANUSCRIPTS MURDER"*: PROBABLY A REFERENCE TO THE SASH BELL MANUSCRIPTS THAT WENT "LOST" SOME YEARS AGO.

- *"THE TEN HOURS LONG BARAZOKU MURDER"*: BARAZOKU WAS THE OLDEST MAGAZINE FOR GAY MEN IN JAPAN.

- *"THE THERE'S NOT ONLY ONE TRUTH - CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES MURDER"*: WHAT I TRANSLATED AS "CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES" IS CALLED OTONA NO JIJŌ 大人の事情 ("GROWN-UP CIRCUMSTANCES") IN JAPANESE AND REFERS TO THINGS THAT ARE KIND OF TABOO OR HARD TO DISCUSS OPENLY.

PAGE 10: COMMUNIST UNIVERSITY

- THE NAME OF THE UNIVERSITY GIVEN HERE (KYŌSANDAI) SOUNDS LIKE A MASH-UP BETWEEN KYŌTO SANGYŌ UNIVERSITY AND THE COMMUNIST UNIVERSITY OF THE TOILERS OF THE EAST.

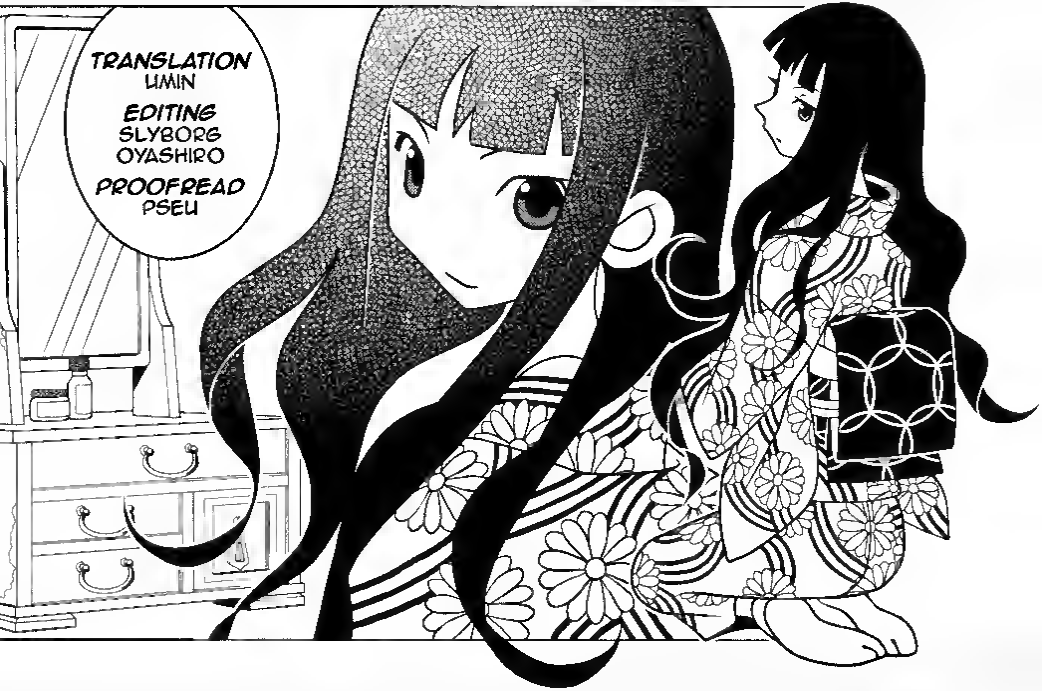
PAGE 15: "SARAI"

- "SARAI" IS THE THEME SONG OF THE PROGRAM "24 HOUR TELEVISION" THAT'S BROADCAST ONCE A YEAR. IT'S MOSTLY DEDICATED TO SOCIAL WELFARE AND FEATURES A CELEBRITY DOING A 10K RUN.

SUIMASENSCANS

(WE'RE A SORRY GROUP, BUT PLEASE ACCEPT THIS!)

VISIT OUR BLOG FOR MORE @ SUIMASENSCANS.WORDPRESS.COM
OR DROP BY #SUIMASENSCANS @ IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET



RELEASED: 6月 2013